1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

that the Central-South Region is industrially only a secondary importance, although an exception must be made in the case of ferro-alloy metals.

Iron and Steel

The largest iron and steel works in Central-South China is the Central China Iron and Steel Works at Ta-yeh in the Huang-shih industrial center in Hupeh Province. Depleted by wartime removals, the Ta-yeh plant was the subject of plans for postwar expansion. At the end of World War II, the plant was equipped with one 450-metric ton capacity blast furnace, and a 30-metric ton furnace was under construction in 1948. The latter was reported to be in operation in 1950, and the plant's total potential at full capacity was then reported to be 121,000 tons of pig-iron per year. Subsequent increases in pig-iron production at Ta-yeh have since been reported in the Communist press.[23] Pig-iron production in 1952, in the Central-South Region as a whole, was reported to be 376 per cent above the 1950 level. The iron ore for the Ta-yeh works is obtained locally, while coal is supplied from P'ing-hsiang in Kiangsi Province.

Apart from Ta-yeh, pig-iron is also produced at a number of smaller plants, the largest of which is at Hsiang-t'an in Hunan Province, which originally had two 250-ton capacity blast furnaces. A number of very small plants are located at Heng-shan, Lu-chiang and Ch'i-yang in Hunan, Chi-an in Kiangsi, Ho-hsien and Chung-t'u in Kwangsi, and possibly Liu-ho-kou in northern Hupeh.[24]

23. Hsin-chien-she [New Construction], Peking, Vol. II, No. 10, July 2, 1950, p. 30; Ta-kung Pao, Shanghai, Dec. 23, 1952; NCNA, Jan. 30, 1954.

24. Bureau of Information, Kang-tieh [Iron and Steel], pp. 20-21, 48-49.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

As for steel production, at last report the Ta-yeh Central China Iron and Steel Works was equipped with one 1-1/2 ton Bessemer furnace and one 10" rolling mill. Acording to a 1950 report, a second Bessemer converter, a new electric furnace, and an open-hearth furance were to be constructed.[25] Mention was made in Communist reports in 1954 of the expansion of open-hearth ingot capacity to double the plant's ingot production.[26] Under the Five-Year Plan, the Communists apparently hope to expand the capacity for both ingots and rolled products at Ta-yeh to redress some of the imbalance at the plant's production structure to render it more integrated than before. The iron mine at Ta-yeh is also being expanded simultaneously, and a power plant is also under construction.[27] Output at the plant in 1952 included ingot, rolled products, and cold cast steel. The production of such machinery as steam hammers was first reported in 1953.[28] Efforts are being made by the Communists, it appears, to convert the Ta-yeh into a modern center -- an iron and steel complex to serve both the Yangtze Valley and South China.

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25. Hsin-chien-she [New Construction] , Peking, Vol. II, No. 10, July 2, 1950, p. 30; Ta-kung Pao Shanghai, Dec 23, 1952; NCNA, Jan. 30, 1954.

26. Ta-kung Pao, Tientsin, June 5, 1954, NCNA, June 10, 1950.

27. Economic Bulletin, Nos. 438, Hong Kong, Oct. 1, 1955, p. 26.

28. Workers' Daily, January 25, 1953.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

327

Apart from Ta-yeh, the only other steel works in Central-South China possessing an electric furnace is located at Canton.[29] But there has been little current information on this plant.

Mining of Ferro-alloys

316
328

As mentioned before, the principal tungsten-producing mines are in Kiangsi, Kwangtung, and Hunan. The entire area was taken over by the Communists in 1949. At the end of the year, it was reported that 25 of the 30 mines under the control of the Kiangsi Tungsten Mining Corporation, as well as some 107 private native mines, had resumed production. Production in Kiangsi in the final months of 1949 was reported to be 43.8 per cent of that of a like period in 1947. For the entire Central-South Region, production in November 1949 was reported to be 576 tons as compared with only 11.5 tons in August of the same year. Information on subsequent developments has been rather scanty, although production during the first eleven months of 1951 was reported to be 9.2 per cent above the year's planned output, and production of ore concentrates in Hunan in the first ten months of 1951 was reported to be 107.42 per cent that of the year's plan,[30] or 9.3 per cent over that of 1950.

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29. Yuan-li Wu, An Economic Survey of Communist China, Bookman Associates, New York, 1956, p. 42.

30. Tu-pao Shou-ts'e [Newspaper Reading Handbook], pp. 517-18; People's Daily, Feb. 10, 1951; Kung-shang Hsin-wen [Industrial and Commercial News], Shanghai, Dec. 17, 1951, p. 3.